

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Peter Wimberger	Recommenders Title:	Professor Emeritus
Recommenders Institution:	University of Puget Sound	Contact Name:	Meaghanne O'Flaherty-Gean
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	01/07/2025 09:42 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant with reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121479557	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description: Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

Other Information

Created Time:	12/29/2024 10:56 AM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	01/07/2025 09:42 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

January 7, 2025

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee:

I am writing to recommend Meaghanne O'Flaherty for your Environmental Program. I knew Meaghanne for two years during her college career. She served as a Museum Docent at the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History, which I directed and was a student in two courses I taught: Introduction to Environmental Policy and Decision-Making and Biodiversity and Conservation in Borneo, which was a field course.

Meaghanne is an independent and passionate student. She was engaged and active participant in the Intro course. The course involves a very involved group project focused on Puget Sound salmon recovery in which each group represents a watershed group applying for funding for a recovery project in their watershed. Students learn salmon science, policy, environmental ethics and economics in the course of the semester. I can't remember Meaghanne's groups specific performance but do remember her as an active participant in the process. Meaghanne writes well and is a good public speaker.

The Borneo field course involved a partial semester of class work, after which the group spent two weeks in Sarawak, Malaysia interacting with stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation. We spent time in a remote longhouse village that had reclaimed their land from a government seizure through both national and international judicial proceedings, and was working on forest restoration in an area that harbored some of the last orangutans in Sarawak. We spent time talking to actors in government natural resource policy development, NGOs, oil palm agriculture, timber industry, and villagers. In addition, we spent time with local anthropologists, human rights advocates, biologists and wildlife rehabbers. Each student had a project in which they had to interact with some of the stakeholders. Meaghanne's project revolved around Sarawakians perception of wild felid species (cats), especially cloud leopards, but also the smaller cats. I think she was surprised that a fair number of regular citizens had little awareness of conservation issues surrounding the wild cat species. Her project was only a two week project but she threw herself into it. Her conclusions were perhaps less nuanced than I would have hoped, but I find that is true for many/most students who are passionate about environmental issues.

Meaghanne has worked for several years in animal clinics and other environments. She was unusual in that she took on some big life responsibilities as a student, including helping care for some children who are now her stepkids. I think that her work and life experience, coupled with her passion for environmental issues will make her a focused and effective graduate student. I highly recommend her for your program.

Sincerely,

Peter Wimberger
Professor Emeritus, Biology
Director Emeritus, Puget Sound Museum of Natural History